

NEWARK
PUBLIC
INFORMATION
OFFICE



City Hall, 920 Broad Street, Room 214
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(201) 733-8004
Pamela E. Goldstein, Director

Press Release:

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1991

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLEASE CONTACT: PAM GOLDSTEIN (201) 733-6368

JAMES ANNOUNCES 10 PERCENT STAFF REDUCTION

Mayor Sharpe James today announced that the administration plans to reduce its workforce by 10 percent to help close a budget shortfall and prevent "an astronomical increase in the tax rate."

The action will result in the elimination of 235 vacant positions and the layoff of 240 employees.

Included in the plan is the streamlining of the Police and Fire Departments which calls for the abolishing of the police and fire chiefs positions. The individuals serving in these slots will be reassigned.

"Currently we have directors and chiefs in both departments, which results in an overlap or duplication of services. There will be no leadership void in the elimination of these positions," said James.

In addition, the Mayor has directed that 70 percent of existing police resources be earmarked to field operations. "In 1991, the public can expect to see more police officers on patrol throughout the City.

--more--

JAMES ANNOUNCES LAYOFFS AD 1

"Police officers belong on the street," he maintained. Newark police officers are a very professional and highly trained group. They want to use this training to serve the public more effectively by cracking down on those who prey on the community and not be bogged down by unnecessary bureaucratic operations."

"The accomplishment of which I am most proud is that more police officers have graduated from the Police Academy during my administration than at any time in our city's history," said James. He noted, 72 recruits currently are enrolled in the academy, and the pending layoffs will not affect police services,"

James contended the City's budget problems stem from reduced collections because of regional and national economic conditions and a 56 percent increase in sewage disposal costs imposed by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) due to the ban on ocean sludge dumping.

"While we are taking these actions, we will give the laid off employees first preference as positions open up in other necessary job areas," he said.

City Business Administrator Richard Monteilh said that approximately 90 layoff notices were sent out today to provisional employees. Their final date of employment is April 26.

--more--

LAYOFFS AD 2

"We anticipate issuing layoff notices to 150 permanent employees on May 6," he noted, explaining, "Civil Service requirements mandate that permanent employees must be given a 45 day notice."

Monteilh pointed out that the reductions are "across the board" affecting middle management, as well as lower level employees.

"This personnel reduction represents the first layoff under the James administration," he noted.

"And, while these measures are unavoidable, we are committed to providing the same level of services through judicious management and restructuring of operations. This will be reflected in our 1991 municipal budget, which will be presented to the City Council within the next few weeks," Monteilh said.

James said he would continue to look closely at all areas of operations within City government to continue his mandate to "deliver a 'sharpe change' in the quality of life for residents of the state's largest city."